

1303.6 - Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, Nov 2003

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Summary

Main Features

THE LABOUR FORCE

Trend estimates

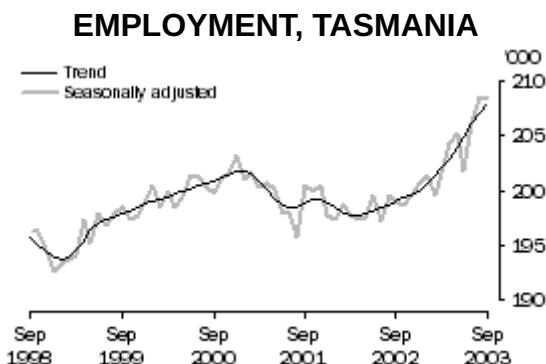
There were an estimated 222,800 persons (based on trend estimates) in the labour force in September 2003 and an estimated 379,700 civilian Tasmanians aged 15 years or more, yielding a labour force participation rate of 58.7%, compared to 58.1% in September 2002. The Australian labour force participation rate for September 2003 was 63.4%, compared to the September 2002 estimate of 63.6% - see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0).

For Tasmanian males, the trend estimate of the participation rate was 66.3% in September 2003, unchanged from the September 2002 estimate. For Tasmanian females, the trend estimate of the participation rate was 51.6% in September 2003, compared to 50.3% in September 2002.

EMPLOYMENT

Trend estimates

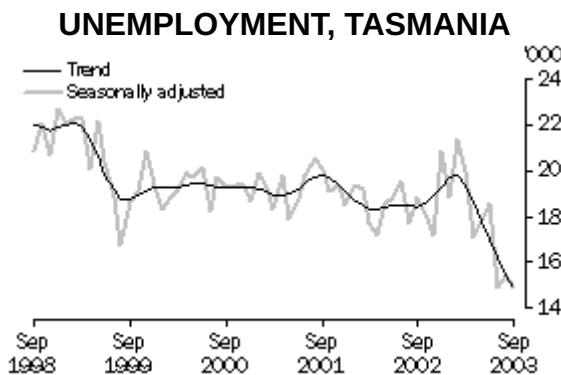
The trend estimate of the total number of employed persons in Tasmania in September 2003 was 207,900, compared to 199,000 in September 2002, an increase of 4.5%. Employment over the same period increased in New South Wales by 1.2%, Victoria by 1.3%, Queensland by 3.3%, South Australia by 3.3% and Western Australia by 0.8%. The increase in the national employment figure over the same period was 1.7% - see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0).



UNEMPLOYMENT

Trend estimates

The trend estimate of the number of unemployed persons in Tasmania for September 2003 was 14,900 compared to 18,400 in September 2002. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for September 2003 was 6.7%, a decrease from the September 2002 figure of 8.5%. The Australian trend estimate of the unemployment rate was 5.9% in September 2003 compared to 6.2% in September 2002 - see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0).

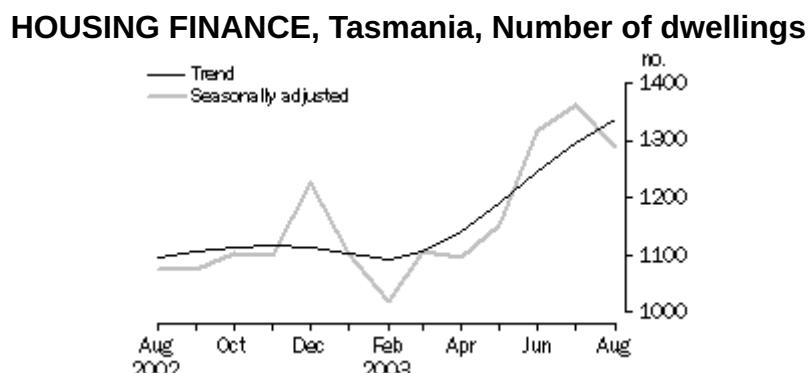


HOUSING FINANCE

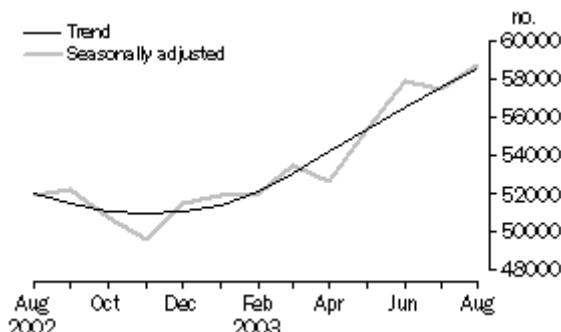
Trend estimates

In trend terms, the number of housing finance commitments in Tasmania for August 2003 was 1,339, an increase of 3.2% from the previous month. In the same period, the trend estimate for Australia increased by 1.6%.

The Tasmanian trend estimate increased by 22.2% between August 2002 and August 2003, while the national trend estimate increased by 12.6%. The changes in the number of housing finance commitments over the same period for the other states and territories were New South Wales (7.5%), Victoria (7.4%), Queensland (26.9%), South Australia (10.8%), Western Australia (17.7%), Northern Territory (35.5%) and Australian Capital Territory (0.7%) - see **Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia** (cat. no. 5609.0).



HOUSING FINANCE, Australia, Number of dwellings



GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

Government Financial Estimates, Tasmania, Electronic Delivery (cat no. 5501.6.55.001) released 9 August 2002, features forward estimates for 2002-03, estimated outcomes for 2001-02, and final data for 2000-01 back to 1998-99, for the Tasmanian State General Government sector, Public Non Financial Corporations and the consolidated Non-Financial Public Sector.

The introduction of the GST, by the Commonwealth Government on 1 July 2000, has seen the elimination of a number of state taxes and in particular the petroleum, liquor and tobacco franchise taxes from July 1 2000. The decrease in state taxes was accompanied by increases in Commonwealth grants under the arrangements agreed to by the states and the Commonwealth. The abolition of Financial Institutions Duty and the Electricity Levy from 1 July 2001 further reduced state taxes for 2001-02. Collections from duty on conveyances peaked in the year ended 30 June 2002 because of the impact of the Commonwealth Government's grants for First Home Owners. Along with the abolition or reduction in other state taxes, the drop-off in the expected duties on conveyances resulted in state tax collections expected to be lower again in 2002-03.

Expenditure on new fixed assets by Public Non-Financial Corporations in the year ended 30 June 2002, increased dramatically due to the acquisition of the two new Bass Strait ferries at a total cost of \$290m. Increased spending on electricity infrastructure also contributed to the high figure. Capital expenditure for 2002-03 is expected to return to more normal levels.

BUILDING APPROVALS

Original terms

There were 247 dwelling units approved in Tasmania during August 2003, including 231 new houses. This compares to 260 dwelling units approved during July 2003, including 223 new houses. The number of dwelling units approved in August 2003 increased by 39.5% from the 177 approvals recorded in August 2002.

At current prices, the value of total building approved in Tasmania was \$52.9m in August 2003, which was 16.4% below the July 2003 figure of \$63.3m and 46.5% above the August 2002 figure of \$36.1m. Residential building contributed \$39.9m and non-residential building \$13.0m in August 2003 - see **Building Approvals, Australia** (cat. no. 8731.0).

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES

Trend estimates

In trend terms, there were 1,579 new motor vehicles sold in Tasmania in September 2003, compared to 1,548 sold in August 2003. The number of new motor vehicles sold in September 2003 increased by 26.5% from the September 2002 figure of 1,248. Passenger vehicles represented 62.9% of all new vehicles sold in Tasmania in September 2003. Nationally, the trend estimate of new motor vehicles sold in September 2003 was 80,416, an increase of 15.6% from the September 2002 figure of 69,567 - see **Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia** (Electronic Publication) (cat. no. 9314.0).

RETAIL

Trend estimates

In trend terms, the estimate of retail turnover in Australia for August 2003 was \$15,221.4m, a 6.3% increase from the August 2002 estimate of \$14,319.5m. In trend terms, the estimate of retail turnover in Tasmania for August 2003 was \$323.4m, 10.2% above the figure recorded in August 2002 (\$293.4m) - see **Retail Trade, Australia** (cat. no. 8501.0).

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING

Trend estimates

Movements of August trend estimates showed increases in all three livestock slaughtering series, with cattle and calves up by 1.9%, sheep and lambs up by 1.1% and pigs up by 2.3%.

The trend estimate for the number of cattle and calves slaughtered in August 2003 was 20,700, up by 16.4% on the estimate for August 2002 and up by 16.7% on the estimate for August 2001.

The trend estimate for the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in August 2003 was 71,800, up by 16.5% on the estimate for August 2002 and up by 8.2% on the estimate for August 2001.

The trend estimate for the number of pigs slaughtered in August 2003 was 3,930, down by 3.7% on the estimate for August 2002 and down by 18.9% on the estimate for August 2001.

OVERSEAS TRADE

The value of Tasmania's exports for the month of August 2003 was \$261m, an increase of 44% on the month of July 2003. Australia's exports for August 2003 totalled \$9,146m, an increase of 7% on the previous month.

Tasmania's major export destinations for the month of August 2003 were the United States of America (\$91.2m), Japan (\$44.6m) and Hong Kong (\$32.2m). Major commodity groups exported for the month were road vehicles and transport equipment (\$77.7m), non-ferrous metals (\$76.8m) and fish, crustaceans and molluscs (\$15.9m).

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Previously: Monthly Summary of Statistics, Tasmania (ISSN: 0314-20940)
Includes: 1306.6 and 8301.6

Contains tables dealing with: population and vital statistics, employment and unemployment, wages and prices, production statistics, building, finance, trade, retail sales, tourism and motor vehicle registrations.

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